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15 September 1947

MEMORANDUM

From: Op-32  
To : Op-03

Subject: Coordination of Intelligence Production.

1. In the preparation in the Central Intelligence Group of a proposed N.I.A. Directive for the coordination of intelligence production, the representative of the State Department insisted that a paragraph be included assigning to the departments concerned a dominant interest in various categories of intelligence. In the first draft of I.A.B. 1, dealing with this subject, the delineation of dominant interests for purposes of intelligence production were stated to be the same as for collection as contained in N.I.A. Directive No. 7. This delineation is similar to paragraph 4 of the present proposed N.I.A. Directive, the only difference being that the category of "air intelligence" is not included. The Army Air Forces objected to this and proposed the inclusion of a category of "air intelligence" with the dominant interest assigned to the Army Air Forces. This was realistic to some extent because the Army Air Forces do not directly participate in the collection of intelligence, since all Military Attachés are under the control of the War Department, but they do participate in the production of intelligence in the Air Intelligence Division.

2. The Air Intelligence Division under the authority of JCS 1020/3 prepares continuing estimates of:

- (1) alien air forces, including, in relation to our strategic vulnerability, the capabilities of potential enemies to wage offensive war from the air, and their defensive capabilities for resisting war from the air;
- (2) strategic objectives in alien countries including analysis of their vulnerability to war from the air; and
- (3) conditions and installations in alien areas of specialized concern to air operations, notably airfields, and meteorological, terrain, and logistical conditions.

As a matter of fact, the Air Intelligence Division actually covers the complete field of air intelligence even though the above mentioned paper contains the following limitation:

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...the production of basic information, the production of basic studies therefrom for estimates, and for dissemination of both basic information and studies to agencies requiring them will ordinarily be placed on military and non-military agencies of the government specifically charged with responsibility therefor."

ONI and A-2 agreed to utilize the structure of the Air Intelligence Division of A-2 for the purpose of implementing JCS 1020/3 and to man that Division with approximately equal Navy and Army Air Force memberships. It is now manned with approximately one-third Navy personnel and two-thirds Army Air Force personnel. It is considered that the intelligence produced by the Air Intelligence Division could properly be entitled "air intelligence".

3. The proposal of the Army Air Forces that they be assigned dominant interest in air intelligence was circulated to the V Branch of ONI and the then incumbent initialled it without comment. At the I.A.B. meeting which considered this paper ONI was represented by the Deputy Chief, the Chief of Naval Intelligence being then on leave. ONI having no adverse comments on the Army Air Forces proposal, it was finally agreed to at the 13th meeting of the I.A.B.

4. When the Minutes of the 13th meeting of the I.A.B. were circulated to the V Branch of ONI the present incumbent objected to the assignment of dominant interest in air intelligence to the Army Air Forces. By memorandum he advised the Chief of Naval Intelligence regarding these objections and set forth his reasons therefor. As a result, and after discussion of this matter with higher naval authority, the Chief of Naval Intelligence withdrew his approval of the paper and proposed that the dominant interest in air intelligence be assigned jointly to the Navy Department and the Army Air Forces. The Chief of Naval Intelligence personally presented the Navy's views regarding this proposal to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff - 2, but to no avail. The proposal was finally brought up for consideration at the 16th meeting of the I.A.B. and the Army Air Forces stood firm in the position that the dominant interest in air intelligence should be with the Army Air Forces. The other members of the I.A.B. expressed few views but did not withdraw their approval of proposed N.I.A. Directive as written. Consequently, the Chief of Naval Intelligence dissented and submitted his reasons therefor.

5. It is not believed that the Navy could successfully argue for the assignment of dominant interest in air intelligence to the Navy Department. Therefore, the best move appeared to be to strive for a joint assignment to the Navy Department and the Army Air Forces.

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the effect that the Navy has a Marine Corps but has not insisted that dominant interest in military intelligence be assigned jointly to the War Department and the Navy Department.

7. If A-2 is not assigned a dominant interest in air intelligence, the Department of the Air Force will be the only department concerned without an assigned dominant interest in at least one category of intelligence.

8. A-2 has previously been assigned responsibility in the field of air intelligence in connection with the production of basic intelligence for the Joint Army-Navy Intelligence Studies. The aviation chapter contained therein is a responsibility of A-2.

9. It is the view of the Chief of Naval Intelligence that the proposed intelligence production directive does not prohibit any department from producing the staff intelligence it needs. The purpose of the directive is to assist all departments in securing special studies of other departments that will assist them with their staff problems. However, if the other departments cannot respond to such requests, the department concerned is at liberty to cover the complete foreign intelligence picture as required by their particular problem.

10. It is considered probable that with the establishment of a Department of the Air Force A-2 will inaugurate intelligence collection activities by setting up an attache system and will expand its intelligence production activities beyond those authorized in JCS 1020/3.

11. From the viewpoint of the Chief of Naval Intelligence, the Air Intelligence Division is operating satisfactorily. If the struggle for recognition of the Navy's interest in air intelligence results in the abolition of the Air Intelligence Division, ONI will require more personnel in order to meet its responsibilities in this field.

12. Captain Henry, Head of the V Branch of ONI, believes that every effort should be made to secure recognition of the Navy's interest of air intelligence, regardless of the effect it may have on the Air Intelligence Division. He believes that the probable adverse effects of the proposed production directive far outweigh any considerations regarding the Air Intelligence Division. He further believes that if the proposed intelligence production directive is issued as now written, the future status of the Air Intelligence Division is most questionable.

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